

## NIST and Voting System Threat Analysis

- The Help America Vote Act (HAVA) of 2002 (Public Law 107-252) requires the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) to assist the Election Assistance Commission (EAC) through its Technical Guidance Development Committee (TGDC) with the development of voluntary voting system guidelines.

Among the guidelines being developed by the TGDC are ones to mitigate cybersecurity risks to voting systems.

See: <http://vote.nist.gov/20050929HAVANISTlang.doc>

- The TGDC passed several resolutions tasking NIST to draft voluntary guidelines to mitigate security risks to the nation's voting systems.

See: <http://vote.nist.gov/Official%20w-o%20signature.pdf>

- A 2005 GAO Report (<http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d05956.pdf>) recommended threat analysis of voting systems as a potentially effective tool in securing voting systems.
- In October of 2005, NIST held a workshop, "Developing an Analysis of Threats to Voting Systems."

See: [http://vote.nist.gov/threats/workshop\\_summary.pdf](http://vote.nist.gov/threats/workshop_summary.pdf)

The Brennan Center was among the groups that presented papers at this workshop. NIST's role in the workshop was to help the voting community discuss and analyze a range of potential security threats to voting systems. NIST is using these voting threats to develop proposed security requirements for upcoming voluntary guidelines.

- Following the workshop, NIST continued working on threat analysis with the Brennan Center and others to increase our understanding of the potential threats and the effectiveness of possible mitigation strategies. As part of this effort, NIST scientists provided input and comment on the drafts of the Brennan Center report.
- On May 25, 2006—prior to the Brennan Center's publication of its report—NIST Director William Jeffrey informed the Center's director that "the findings, opinions and recommendations contained in the [Brennan Center] report are solely those of the Brennan Center." While the Brennan Center report thanks NIST in its acknowledgment, the report also states "The statements made and views expressed in this report are the responsibility solely of the Brennan Center." NIST agrees with that statement.

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